



Attorney's Docket No.: 06501-030001

15A
AP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroaki Yamamoto
Serial No. : 09/305,390
Filed : May 5, 1999
Title : METHOD FOR PRODUCING OPTICALLY ACTIVE 4-HALO-3-HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID ESTER

Art Unit : 1652
Examiner : R. Hutson

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed March 15, 2000, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-6, 11, 13, and 15-22.

Sub C1
7. (Amended) A method for producing a (S)-4-halo-3-hydroxybutyric acid ester, the method comprising asymmetrically reducing a 4-halo-acetoacetic acid ester or its [derivatives] derivative with a purified acetoacetyl-CoA reductase [constituting the] that can participate in a poly- β -hydroxy fatty acid biosynthesis system.

A1
sub D17
8. (Amended) [A] The method of claim 7, wherein said acetoacetyl-CoA reductase is derived from [microorganisms] a microorganism belonging to the genus [Ralstonia] Ralstonia.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein [said acetoacetyl-CoA reductase is derived from Ralstonia eutropha] the microorganism is Ralstonia eutropha.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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